

for me to understand why he should not at once have taken it up.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Does the minister not think it looks suspicious that an account should be sent in for six days' work in respect of something that it took only three hours to accomplish? If this gentleman is allowed to pad his accounts in that way, where will the limit be? What will prevent his claiming ten days or twenty days' service just as well as six by saying that on ten or twenty days he was talking to somebody about the matter?

Mr. REID: That is a fair question; I will give the hon. gentleman my opinion in that regard. I have known of cases decided in court within the space of two hours; yet in respect of that case days and weeks and months of work had to be done previous to its trial. Of course, these preliminary services had to be paid for by the parties to the suit. Every one knows that Mr. Duchemin had to travel some distance from his home—

Mr. SINCLAIR: Twelve miles.

Mr. REID: —to hold the investigations; surely Mr. Duchemin was entitled to remuneration for these services. The hon. member for North Cape Breton has the records before him. He knows well that Mr. Duchemin could not hold an investigation miles from his own home in one day.

Mr. McKENZIE: He says he did it in one day.

Mr. REID: He says that the evidence was taken on that one day, but his time was previously occupied in travelling, serving subpoenas, and so on. The hon. member for North Cape Breton, from the returns brought down, naturally understood that six accounts were rendered by Mr. Duchemin. I have explained this by saying that one account of Mr. Duchemin was divided into six different items for the purpose of showing what the charges were in connection with each investigation.

Taking into consideration the whole circumstances, I can only say that in my judgment Mr. Duchemin's charges for these investigations were fair, reasonable and honest. Mr. Duchemin did not commit any fraudulent act, and I do not think that any member of this House should, by putting a question on the Order Paper, do anything that might injure the reputation of any esteemed citizen of Canada.

THE PURCHASE OF SUBMARINES.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN moved:

That the return respecting the purchase of two submarines, brought down and laid upon the table of the House this day by the Minister of Naval Defence, be printed forthwith, and that rule 74 be suspended for that purpose.

He said: This return relates to an important matter that has involved a good deal of discussion in the House and has attracted a good deal of attention throughout the country. It would seem to me appropriate that the documents should be printed forthwith so that members of the House and the people of the country as a whole may have a better opportunity of making themselves acquainted with them than they would otherwise have.

Motion agreed to.

THE BUDGET.

PROPOSED WAR TAXATION.

Consideration of the proposed motion of Hon. W. T. White (Minister of Finance) for the Committee of Ways and Means, and the proposed amendment of Sir Wilfrid Laurier thereto, resumed from March 11.

Mr. R. J. BALL (South Grey): Mr. Speaker, it is with some hesitancy that I rise to say a few words on the subject of the Budget, which has now been before us for some time, especially after it has been discussed by so many able speakers who have preceded me. Before proceeding to the Budget I might refer to a few remarks of the last speaker, the hon. member for Westmorland (Mr. Copp). That hon. gentleman and others have spoken of curtailing the expenditure of the Government for this year. I take it that in the Estimates the Government have curtailed as far as possible; but owing to the war, which, of course, was an unforeseen event, they had to make altogether unusual provisions for revenue. Then there were the ordinary liabilities and necessary expenditures of the Government, some of which were really incurred by the late Government; and contracts, for which annual provision must be made, could not possibly be eliminated or curtailed. It might not have been wise for the Government to curtail or abandon contracts which they had entered into for public buildings and other improvements throughout the country under present conditions. The Government have been urging the farmers, manufacturers and others to continue their operations so as to obviate